to be flattered thereby. I am of the opinion that the use of precision instruments in the repetition of classical experiments would be for the advanced undergraduate much better than a good deal of the "research" which he carries on with a man at his elbow to show him how, and perhaps not worse for the teacher. The study and mastery of the original articles of a series of the classical experiments, and the supervision of the experimental work, would be highly valuable for any teacher of physics.

In these days of rising costs the teacher of physics, like all the rest, should have at heart the problem of waste in his administration. As I once heard Professor B. K. Emerson say to a student, in the course of a mild rebuke for mishandling a crystal specimen, a collection is meant to be used up, but not to be destroyed; and so with apparatus. I think that the best means to meet this problem is to hold every student personally responsible for the apparatus which is intrusted to him, by keeping a personal account with him. The plan of assessing all students at a flat rate for laboratory expenses, no matter who does damage, used to seem to me little better than highway robbery on the part of the laboratory, and I have no doubt that students feel the same now. The individual account is some trouble, to be sure, but it makes each man feel responsible and act carefully, as I can testify from experience.

WILLARD J. FISHER

WORCESTER, MASS.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE RAMSAY MEMORIAL FUND

AFTER the death of Sir William Ramsay in July, 1916, a memorial meeting was held in London to commemorate his thirty-five years of service in physical and chemical sciences, education and public welfare. As was noted in SCIENCE at the time, the gathering of distinguished men, under the chairmanship of Lord Rayleigh, decided

1. To raise a substantial fund as a memorial to Sir William; and
2. To use such fund for the establishment of
   (*a*) Ramsay Research Fellowships, tenable wherever necessary facilities might be available, and a
   (*b*) Ramsay Memorial Laboratory of Engineering Chemistry at the University of London, where Sir William served twenty-six of his most fruitful years of activity.

A committee of prominent men in the physical and chemical sciences in Great Britain, including the leaders of the Coalition government and Ambassadors then accredited to the Court of St. James, was later organized. Through this general organization, committees were organized in Australia, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Holland, India, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Spain, Switzerland and the United States. Correspondence with men of science indicate the formation of National Committees also in China, France and Sweden, and perhaps Russia.

The sum set out to be raised was £100,000. To date something over £300 have been contributed by residents of the United States.

The merits of the objects of this fund are obvious. The recognition of a man who made so many valuable contributions to our knowledge and who won so many friends through his wonderful friendly sympathy and erudition appeals especially to American men and women.

The committee expects some generous contributions and will welcome the receipt of other large gifts, but it hopes especially to have a great number of small subscribers. The receipt of checks, postal orders, or cash, for one dollar or over, sent to the Ramsay Memorial Fund Association, 50 East 41st St., New York City, will be promptly acknowledged.

UNITED STATES COMMITTEE FOR THE RAMSAY MEMORIAL FUND

| | |
|---|---|
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### THE WAR DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SPECIAL TRAINING

THE Secretary of War authorizes the following announcement:

With a view to mobilizing the educational institutions of the country and their facilities for special training, there has been created in the War Department a "Committee on Eduction and Special Training." Associated with this committee will be five civilian educators, known as an advisory board of educators.

The committee will be composed of Col. Hugh S. Johnson, deputy provost marshal general; Lieutenant Colonel Robert I. Rees, of the General Staff, and Major Grenville Clark, of the Adjutant General's Department.

The five advisory members of the committee, whose selection has been approved by the Secretary of War, are:

Dr. Charles R. Mann, of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. James R. Angell, of Chicago, dean of the faculties of the University of Chicago.

Mr. J. W. Dietz, of Chicago, director of education, Western Electric Company, president of the National Association of Corporation Schools.

Mr. James P. Munroe, of Boston, a member of the Federal Board for Vocational Education (which appointment will include the interests of the trade schools and schools of secondary grade).

Dr. Samuel P. Capen, of the U. S. Bureau of Education, specialist in higher education.

In these appointments it is felt that the entire educational field has been covered, since Dr. Mann is representive of engineering schools, Dr. Angell is representative of academic colleges and universities, and Mr. Dietz is from the field of schools conducted by industrial concerns. The committee will be authorized to call in from time to time other educators for consultation and assistance.

The functions of this committee will be to mobilize the country's schools and colleges behind the Army. It will encourage and arrange for the technical education of men needed by the several branches of the Army, particularly the Ordnance Bureau, the Signal Corps and the Engineers. In a degree the educational institutions are already rendering patriotic service to the government, but it is planned that there shall be a systematization of their efforts and that their facilities for technical training shall be fully utilized.

The General Order of the War Department creating the "Committee on Education and Special Training," defines its functions in the following broad terms:

> Under the direction of the Chief of Staff the functions of the committee shall be: To study the needs of the various branches of the service for skilled men and technicians; to determine how such needs shall be met, whether by selective draft, special training in educational institutions, or otherwise; to secure the cooperation of the educational institutions of the country and to represent the War Department in its relations with such institutions; to administer such plan of special training in schools and colleges as may be adopted.
>
> It is ordered that the committee shall be given such assistance, commissioned and civilian, as may be necessary to fully execute its duties, with office room in the War Department Building.

It is estimated that within the next six months 75,000 to 100,000 men will be given intensive training in schools and colleges. These men will be drawn from the armed forces of the nation, the men now in training camps or about to be called thereto, and the registrants under the selective draft act. It is expected that most of the men selected for technical training will be taken from among the men who have registered under the selective draft law and who are awaiting training and the call to the colors.

In the selection of men for intensive training in technical subjects the committee will have available the information contained in